

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

Main claim 8 has been amended by incorporation into it of the somewhat clarified subject matter of claims 9 and 10. Thus as shown in FIG. 1, amended claim 8 describes a melt filter for cleaning a plastic melt issuing from an extruder, the filter comprising:

- a wheel 3 rotatable about an axis and having an outer rim 13 and a plurality of spokes 11 forming an annular array of axially open spaces;
- a pair of housing plates 5 axially sandwiching and completely covering the wheel 3 and forming offset from the axis a melt passage 9 extending axially through the wheel 3 at the spaces;
- removable filter elements 8, 8', 8'' braced axially against the wheel 3 at the spaces between the spokes 11, one of the plates 5 being formed with an edge cutout 7 of a dimension greater than an angular width of one of the filter elements 8, 8', 8'' and smaller or equal to twice this angular width, whereby filter elements 8, 8', 8'' can be removed from the wheel 3 at the cutout 7, an angular spacing between the passage 9 where it passes through the wheel 3 and the cutout 7 being at least equal to the angular filter-element width plus an angular dimension of one of the spokes 11 and at most equal

to twice the angular filter-element width plus an angular dimension of one of the spokes 11;
a part on the one housing plate that can cover and close the cutout 7 during normal operation of the melt filter and that can open and uncover the cutout 7 for changing the filter element aligned axially with the cutout 7; and
a ratchet drive 4 engaging the rim 13 and operable to angularly move the wheel 3 about the axis in steps.

The sole reference applied against this case is US 6,325,922 of Schaller. Here a wheel has three stations. At a first filtering station the melt is passed front to back through the filter elements carried on the wheel 1. At a second backwashing station angularly off from the first station the melt can be forced oppositely back-to-front through the filter elements. At a third service station a cover 30 can be removed to switch out clogged filter elements. In FIG. 1 the filtering and backwashing stations are shown diametrically opposite each other and in FIG. 3 the service and filtering stations are also shown diametrically opposite each other, making it impossible to determine the relative angular positions these stations actually are in.

Thus there is no teaching of the specifically described spacings now clearly defined in claim 8. Instead the only apparent showing is that somehow or other three elements are to be space diametrically opposite each other on a wheel. Alternately Schaller could be said to teach with FIGS. 2 and 3 that it is known to place a service station diametrically opposite a filtering station. In this latter case as can be seen in FIG. 2, this places the service

station at a much greater spacing from the filtering station than is clearly defined in the claim.

Thus the amended claims clearly define over the instant invention under §102 and §103. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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Enclosure:

None.